

United States Senate

October 18, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dr. Patrick Breysse, PhD, CIH
Director
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Hwy, NE (MS F59)
Atlanta, GA 30341-3717

Dear Director Breysse:

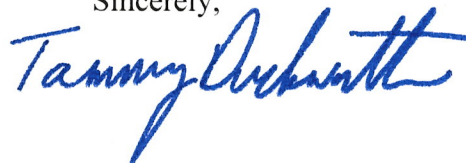
I write to request that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) – the premier Federal agency entrusted with protecting American communities from public health threats related to exposure of natural and man-made hazardous substances – conduct a health consultation in Sauget, Illinois.

Specifically, I ask that the dedicated civil servants at ATSDR determine if metal emissions pollution being emitted from the Veolia North America-Trade Waste Incineration facility is having an adverse health impact on the surrounding community. If ATSDR identifies threats to public health, I request that ATSDR provide recommendations to eliminate the threat.

The facility in Sauget, Illinois is required to obtain an operating permit under Title V of the Clean Air Act because it is a hazardous waste incinerator and has the capacity to emit large amounts of pollution. Accordingly, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) previously required Veolia to conduct 24-hour emissions monitoring of multiple metals, such as mercury lead and arsenic. However, EPA recently revised the permit to free Veolia from monitoring all metals emissions except for Mercury. Community leaders, residents and I are deeply concerned that this dramatic weakening in pollution controls puts public health at risk.

ATSDR's independence and expertise is required to provide my constituents in Sauget with an accurate scientific assessment of the public health risk facing my constituents who are exposed to emissions from the hazardous waste incinerator. Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request for ATSDR assistance.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



November 14, 2019

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

Thank you for your letter requesting that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) assess the public health risks posed by the emissions from the Veolia North America-Trade Waste Incineration facility, Sauget, Illinois.

By way of background, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA, also known as Superfund), Congress gave ATSDR the authority to conduct public health assessments following a request from an individual or a health provider. ATSDR's public health assessments determine whether people have been or currently are exposed to harmful substances released into the environment from a hazardous waste site or facility. ATSDR bases its assessments on available environmental monitoring data, most often collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or by a state environmental regulatory agency.

ATSDR will work closely with EPA, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the Illinois Department of Public Health to gather and review any available information and sampling data describing the type and concentration of environmental contaminants released from the Veolia North America-Trade Waste Incineration facility. ATSDR will use this information to determine whether the data are sufficient for ATSDR to provide the community with a meaningful evaluation of potential public health impacts resulting from exposure to emissions from the facility.

After ATSDR has reviewed and analyzed the available data, we will send you a second letter indicating whether an assessment of the public health risks posed by the Veolia North America-Trade Waste Incineration facility is feasible or if we may be making recommendations to collect additional data.

Thank you for your commitment to the health of your constituents. If you or your staff have additional questions, please contact Eric Wortman in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Washington Office at (202) 245-0600 or EWortman@cdc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Breyse".

Patrick Breyse, PhD, CIH
Director
National Center for Environmental Health and
ATSDR
CDC